



# USDA EGG MARKET NEWS REPORT

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## NATIONAL EGG MARKET AT-A-GLANCE



In New York, prices were 2 cents higher on all sizes. The market tone was firm entering the weekend. Demand at retail outlets was moderate to very good and food service movement was generally moderate. Supplies were tight to instances adequate and held with confidence. Breaking stock offerings were barely sufficient to short for the light to fair demand. Breaking schedules were irregular. Light type fowl were about adequate for the moderate to at least moderate demand.

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

**MIDWEST REGIONAL EGG** Prices to producers were 6 cents higher for the larger sizes and 3 cents higher for small with the balance of prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was firm. Cartoned egg sales were mostly moderate to good with institutional movement mostly moderate. Supplies were mostly barely adequate to instances adequate.

	RANGE	MOSTLY	IA-MN-WI	Prices paid to producers.	Range	Mostly
EXTRA LARGE	91-100	95-97	LARGE	86-93	88	
LARGE	91-99	93-96	MEDIUM	76-80	79	
MEDIUM	81-87	84-86	SMALL	44-47		

MIDWEST AREA: IA,IL,IN,KY,MI,MN,OH,NE,ND,SD,WI,WV, Western NY, and Western PA

**NORTHEAST REGIONAL EGG** Prices were unchanged, however all sizes were trending sharply higher for next week's asking prices. The market tone was firm entering the weekend. Demand into all channels ranged moderate to fairly good. Supplies were close to at times tight and held with increased confidence. Breaking stock offerings were barely adequate to tight for the fair demand. Schedules were reported as reduced to normal. Spent hens were about adequate for the moderate to at least moderate demand. Slaughter schedules were noted as mostly normal.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	99-113	100-105
LARGE	94-108	99-103
MEDIUM	83-96	88-90

NORTHEAST AREA: CT, DC, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, Eastern NJ, Eastern NY, PA, RI, Northern VA, and VT

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL EGG** Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment firm. Retail demand was moderate to very good, best where featured. Food service movement was mostly moderate. Supplies remained barely adequate to tight with sellers still holding product with confidence. Central states breaking stock prices were higher. Offering were tight to unavailable for the spotty demand. Future delivered breaking stock prices reported at sharply higher prices. Trade sentiment firm.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	98.5-107	100-103
LARGE	97.5-106	99-102
MEDIUM	86.5-95	88-91

SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: AR,AZ,CO,KS,LA,MO,NM,OK, and TX

**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL EGG** Prices were unchanged, however asking prices for next week's deliveries were trending sharply higher on all sizes. Trade sentiment tone was firm entering the weekend. Retail demand was moderate to good. Supplies were close to tight for present requirements. Breaking stock offerings were barely adequate to tight for the fair and unaggressive demand. Breaking schedules were normal to reduced. Light type hens were about sufficient for the moderate to at least moderate demand. Slaughter schedules were reported as mostly normal for the upcoming week.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	98.25-107	101-104
LARGE	96.25-105	99-102
MEDIUM	82-93	86-90

SOUTHEAST AREA: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, Eastern TN, and Southern VA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE A AND GRADE A, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

**NEW YORK EGGS** Prices were 2 cents higher on all sizes. The market tone entering the weekend was firm. Demand was moderate to good. Supplies continued to be confidently held and were closely balanced to tight for current trade requirements.

	RANGE
EXTRA LARGE	122-126
LARGE	120-124
MEDIUM	109-113

**CHICAGO AND MIDWEST EGGS** Prices were unchanged. The market tone was fully steady to firm. Retail demand was moderate to good, best where features planned or in progress. Food service movement was mostly moderate. Supplies were barely adequate to close and held with confidence.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
EXTRA LARGE	97-105	99-101
LARGE	96-104	97-100
MEDIUM	86-95	89-91

**WESTERN REGION EGG** Prices unchanged. The market tone was very firm with asking prices for next week 12 cents higher on jumbo, 13-14 cents higher on large and extra large, and 13 cents higher on medium. Retailer demand moderate. Available offerings commanded premium prices.

**CALIFORNIA EGGS** Prices unchanged. The market tone was very firm with asking prices for next week 12 cents higher on jumbo, 14 cents higher on extra large and large, and 13 cents higher on medium and small. Retailer demand moderate. Offerings actively sought to rotate for Easter needs and were held for premium prices. Small benchmark price 102. Ads in Southern California: smaller outlets- jumbo dozen 2 for \$3. extra large dozen 139, 2 for \$3, 20 pack 2 for \$5, large dozen 79, 18 pack 149.

**CALIFORNIA** California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

	RANGE
JUMBO	145
EXTRA LARGE	140
LARGE	131
MEDIUM	122

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	122-134
EXTRA LARGE	120-128
LARGE	118-121
MEDIUM	109-112

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA GRADE AA AND GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	299-399
EXTRA LARGE	289-359
LARGE	239-339
MEDIUM	199-279

**CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK** Breaking stock and checks and undergrade prices were higher when compared to previously reported prices. Offerings were tight to unavailable for the spotty demand. Future delivered breaking stock prices reported at sharply higher values than the current quoted range. Floor stocks closely balanced to very tight. Schedules varied. Trade sentiment firm. Prices paid, material exchanged, 30 dozen case equivalent, 48 lb., minimum net weight, delivered to breakers, cents per dozen.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	91-94	
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	76-82	76-78
CENTRAL STATES AREA:		
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

**EASTERN REGION BREAKING STOCK** Mostly prices were sharply higher when compared to early week's trading. The undertone was firm. Offerings were barely adequate to tight for reduced to normal breaking schedules. Demand was fair and unaggressive. Cases broken under federal inspection for the week ending 28-Feb-2004 was 5% more than last week and 9% higher when compared to a year ago.

Prices paid, material exchanged, 30 dozen case equivalent, 48 lb., minimum net weight, delivered to breakers, cents per dozen.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	86-90	87-89
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	72-80	74-78
EASTERN REGION AREA:		
AL,CT,DE,FL,GA,KY,ME,MD,MA,MS,NH,NJ,NY,NC,PA,RI,SC,TN,VT,VA,WV		

#### EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION - W/E 28-FEB-04

(Lbs in thousands)		(EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)				
	CASES	LIQUID	LIQUID	LIQUID	DRIED	INED
	BROKEN	WHOLE	WHITE	YOLK		
CW	1,203,647	28,684	11,451	6,371	2,852	4,063
PW	1,165,061	27,022	11,468	6,415	2,667	3,977
LY	1,081,456	27,512	9,277	4,894	1,926	4,093
% CHG PW	3	6	0	-1	7	2
% CHG LY	11	4	23	30	48	-1
2004	9,244,644	215,795	90,492	50,404	21,869	32,588
2003	8,971,440	213,864	83,496	46,147	21,061	33,352
% CHG YTD	3	1	8	9	4	-2

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE -	CURRENT	PREVIOUS	LAST
	WEEK	WEEK	YEAR
(INEDIBLE INCLUDED)	42.01	41.96	42.33
(INEDIBLE EXCLUDED)	38.64	38.54	38.54

**NATIONAL LIQUID** Pasteurized whites reported at 82.5 cents fob with pasteurized salt yolk reported from 55 to 65 cents fob. Trade sentiment continued firm for whole egg and whites with yolk reported as fully steady. Demand was good to excellent for whole egg and whites and fairly good to good for yolk. Offerings were tight to adequate for whole egg, and tight to short of needs for whites and yolk. Available breaking stock was very limited as graders fill current orders and prepare for the upcoming Easter holiday. Breaking stock prices were higher when compared to the previous week. Prices paid cents per lb., FOB Plant to 10:00AM non-pasteurized trucklot. For delivery within 14 days.

CLASS	LOADS	RANGE	WTD. AVG.	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK
WHOLE	28	70.5-80	76.75	5.68
WHITES	18	72.5-78	74.36	2.05
YOLKS	11	58-61	59.18	.80

**EASTERN REGION FROZEN** Mostly prices were higher on whole and whites and irregular on yolks when compared to the previous week's trading. Trade sentiment improved on yolks and was steady. However, interest on salt yolk was slow. Whites and whole were steady to fully steady. Demand and trading was light to fair. Supplies were tight on whole and whites, with improvement noted from a week earlier on yolks. Liquid and frozen eggs (ingredients included) processed under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 28 February 2004 were 9% more than the previous week and last year. Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb containers)

	TRUCKLOTS		LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.)
	RANGE	MOSTLY	RANGE
WHOLE	75-86	79-83	90-94
BLENDS (/)	TFEWR		90-105
WHITES	81-90	86-89	93-98
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	74-79	74-78	81-92
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	71-76	72-75	77-87
(/) - Whole plus yolk plus sweetener, generally 20-32% egg solids.			

**CENTRAL REGION FROZEN** Frozen whole egg and white prices were higher with sugared yolk ranging unchanged and salted yolk ranging unchanged to 1 cent higher. Trade sentiment was firm for whole egg and whites and steady on the balance of products. Demand was mostly moderate for whole egg, whites and sugared yolk and very quiet for salted yolk. Offerings were balanced to adequate for whole egg and whites and fully adequate for all yolk products. Breaking stock prices were higher when compared to the previous week's reported prices. Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

	TRUCKLOTS	
	RANGE	MOSTLY
WHOLE	80-83	83
WHITES	86-90	86-88
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	74-78	77-78
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	72-74	

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FROZEN** Prices 4 cents higher on whole and whites, unchanged on yolks. Southern California breaking activity for the week ending 2/28 was 1% more than the previous week. Frozen demand good with freezer stocks light.

Wholesale selling prices, f.o.b. shipping point (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

	LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.)
	RANGE
WHOLE	89-92
WHITES	93-96
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	81-84
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	78-81

**NATIONAL DRIED EGG REPORT** Majority prices were unchanged on blends, higher on yolks. Prices were sharply higher on albumen and whole when compared to a week earlier. Trucklot trading was limited on albumen but very firm. LTL trading was reported at \$7.00 to 7.25 on albumen. Movement of whole was moderate at higher trending levels, yolk generally improved and was somewhat stronger. Trade sentiment was firm on albumen, fully steady to firm on whole, and at least steady with improvement noted on yolks. Dried eggs processed under federal inspection for the week ending 28 February 2004 were 7% more than the previous week, and 48% more than last year. The total year to date dried egg produced were 4% more than a year ago. Wholesale selling prices, dollars per lb., in containers, trucklot & less-than-trucklot volumes.

WHOLE	3.03-3.50	MOSTLY 3.21-3.35
YOLKS	1.55-2.10	MOSTLY 1.61-1.75
ALBUMEN, SPRAY, DRIED	6.35-6.90	MOSTLY 6.55-6.75
BLENDS (WHOLE PLUS SWEETENER)	1.95-2.45	MOSTLY 2.00-2.10

**TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR FEB 27, 2004-MAR 04, 2004****CURRENT LOADS** 72.75**FUTURE LOADS** 56.25**TOTAL LOADS** 129.00

	<b>SE</b>		<b>NE</b>		<b>MW</b>		
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>ORG</b>	<b>DST</b>	<b>ORG</b>	<b>DST</b>	<b>ORG</b>	<b>DST</b>	<b>LOADS</b>
GNR W 1	83.50	97.25	83.38	88.09	95.58	98.00	48.00
GNR BR 1	—	92.57	—	—	—	—	5.75
GL W J	—	—	107.00	108.00	108.33	—	4.00
GL W XL	—	99.24	96.00	100.26	99.55	90.00	38.50
GL W LG	—	101.04	90.00	98.34	99.92	98.80	26.25
GL W MD	87.14	—	85.53	87.75	101.50	91.67	21.00
GL W SM	—	—	54.00	66.33	67.00	—	.75
GL BR XL	—	—	—	—	105.00	112.00	.25
GL BR LG	—	—	—	—	105.00	112.43	1.75
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	91.00	89.67	90.00	7.50

	<b>SC</b>		<b>NW</b>		<b>SW</b>		
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>ORG</b>	<b>DST</b>	<b>ORG</b>	<b>DST</b>	<b>ORG</b>	<b>DST</b>	<b>LOADS</b>
GNR BR 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.00
GL W J	113.00	—	—	122.50	—	120.00	5.00
GL W XL	104.50	109.25	—	—	113.13	9.50	
GL W LG	101.00	—	—	—	113.13	5.75	
GL W MD	95.00	—	—	—	97.46	12.00	
GL BR LG	—	106.00	—	—	—	1.00	
NRBS - 48	—	—	—	—	—	3.00	

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT-MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED. LOAD MOVEMENT REPRESENTS TOTAL MOVEMENT WITHIN 6 REGIONS.

**LIGHT TYPE HENS**

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL  
WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS

(INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER  
CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

**EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN** Majority values were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was moderate to at least moderate. Offerings of spend fowl were about adequate. Processing schedules were mostly normal. Opinions on removal cost were generally steady.

**RANGE MAJORITY**  
0-12 9-11

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Negotiations were too few to report. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings of spent hens. Finished sales were fair. Schedules were normal. Disposal costs were expected to remain unchanged. **RANGE MAJORITY**  
REMOVAL COST TOO FEW TO REPORT

**NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Prices ranged unchanged. Offerings continued tight to adequate with demand moderate to fairly good. Opinions of value were steady. **RANGE MAJORITY**  
REMOVAL COST 4-7 6-7

**WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN** Plant schedules moderate. Offerings adequate.

**SHELL EGGS-COMBINED REGIONAL**

AVERAGE PRICES ON SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A LARGE OR BETTER, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

<b>REGIONS</b>	<b>EX LARGE</b>	<b>LARGE</b>	<b>MEDIUM</b>
NORTHEAST	102.50	101.00	89.00
SOUTHEAST	102.50	100.50	88.00
MIDWEST	96.00	94.50	85.00
SOUTH CENTRAL	101.50	100.50	89.50
COMBINED REGIONAL	100.64	99.17	87.95

Computed from simple weekly averages weighted by regional area populations.

**NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET** Majority prices were slightly higher on light canners; unchanged on heavies when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate on lights; fair to moderate on heavies. Trading was light on heavy canners. Available offerings were clearing satisfactorily. Processing schedules were normal. The undertone was steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

**LIGHT CANNER HENS**  
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)  
22.5-30 MAJORITY 25-26

**HEAVY CANNER HENS**  
(WITHOUT NECKS)  
32-37 MAJORITY 34-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

**LIGHT CANNER HENS**  
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)  
24-32 MAJORITY 27-27.5

**HEAVY CANNER HENS**  
(WITHOUT NECKS)  
33-39 MAJORITY 36.5-37.5

**LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION** W/E 28-Feb-04  
(PRELIMINARY)

**U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY**

	<b>LIGHT HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY HENS</b>	<b>TOTAL HENS</b>
	<b>THOUSANDS</b>		
HEAD	1,139	1,252	2,391
LAST WEEK	1,291	1,314	2,605
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,686	1,296	2,982
TO-DATE/2004	10,264	10,231	20,495
TO-DATE/2003	13,604	11,033	24,637

**U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA**

	<b>LIGHT HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY HENS</b>	<b>TOTAL HENS</b>
	<b>THOUSANDS</b>		
HEAD	95	0	95
LAST WEEK	229	3	232
SAME WEEK YR AGO	240	0	240
TO-DATE/2004	1,916	29	1,945
TO-DATE/2003	2,933	46	2,979

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, PLTRY DEVELOPMENT DIV.

**TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA**

	<b>LIGHT HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY HENS</b>	<b>TOTAL HENS</b>
HEAD	1,234	1,252	2,486
LAST WEEK	1,520	1,317	2,837
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,926	1,296	3,222
TO-DATE/2004	12,180	10,260	22,440
TO-DATE/2003	16,537	11,079	27,616

**Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade****U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

	Week Ending February 21, 2004		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002/1	2003	2002
LIQUID	98	102	830	1,566
FROZEN	0	0	0	0
DRIED	0	0	49	84
TOTAL	98	102	879	1,650

**U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

	Week Ending February 21, 2004		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002/1	2003	2002
LIQUID	49	72	733	1,109
FROZEN	45	47	150	416
DRIED	40	120	515	160
TOTAL	134	239	1,398	1,685

**Inspected Shell Eggs****U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

	Week Ending February 21, 2004		Year-To-Date	
	2003	2002 /1	2003	2002
JUMBO	0	0	50	0
EXTRA LARGE	0	0	780	150
LARGE	2,350	1,188	6,793	3,973
MEDIUM	750	1,495	3,030	4,174
UNGRADED	1,698	0	9,648	1,470
MISC	0	12	0	12
TOTAL	4,798	2,695	20,301	9,779

Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch in cooperation with Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

**WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - (INCL GOVT STOCKS)****SELECTED STGE CENTERS (IN THOUSANDS)**

		FREGS LBS	TURKS LBS	POP LBS
AM	03/01/04	3,548	169,441	39,330
AM	02/01/04	3,118	141,357	40,964
CHG		430	28084	-1634
PCT CHG		14%	20%	-4%

Based on the historical relationship of the preliminary U.S. Cold Storage holdings report of January 31, 2003 and the selected centers storage report, the expected U.S. holdings on March 1, 2004 are:

FROZEN EGGS	24	MIL LBS PLUS OR MINUS	5%
TURKEYS	491	MIL LBS PLUS OR MINUS	5%
POULTRY	511	MIL LBS PLUS OR MINUS	5%

**MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS**

W/E 28-Feb-04

SELECTED	CW	PW	PCT CHG
CONSUMING CENTERS	THOUSANDS	PW	LY
ATLANTA	27.9	25.2	11
BOSTON	3.2	3.8	-16
CHICAGO	61.3	59.3	3
DETROIT	46.5	27.2	71
KANSAS CITY	4.8	5.0	-4
LOS ANGELES	96.5	98.0	-2
NEW ORLEANS	8.0	7.7	4
NEW YORK	31.1	29.4	6
ST. LOUIS	17.9	16.7	7
SAN FRANCISCO	19.5	19.8	-2
TOTAL	316.7	292.1	8
4 WK MVG AVG	299.2		11

**COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT REPORT**

W/E 28-Feb-04

**(RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCERS)**

REGIONS	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PW	LY
N. ATLANTIC	208.8	-1	-3
E.N. CENTRAL	590.0	8	10
W.N. CENTRAL	296.1	8	6
S. ATLANTIC	180.0	0	1
S. CENTRAL	102.9	1	4
WEST	192.3	-2	4
TOTAL	1570.1	4	5
MATCHED PLANTS REPORTING		85	85

**NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY SHELL EGG REPORT**

Mar 02, 2004

PRICES PAID PER DOZEN GRADE A BROWN EGGS IN CARTONS DELIVERED STORE DOOR.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
MAINE	152	146	118	73
MOSTLY	-	-	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE	146-150	140-144	111-115	67-71
MOSTLY	148-149	142-143	113-114	69-70
RHODE ISLAND	151-155	145-149	117-121	69-73
MOSTLY	151	145	117	69
VERMONT	150-153	145-147	110-111	-
MOSTLY	153	147	111	-

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